rccommendations of the Commission. Accordingly an action plan for Chilka Lake for 1996-2000, prepared by the Government of Orissa, has been approved by the Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Finance.

Role of ICAR

793. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR produces only prototypes and undertakes manufacturing promotion activities through interaction with the agriculture machinery manufacturers and supplies drawings to them;

(b) whether the ICAR does not involve itself in the manufacturing, supply, cost evaluation, control with the result that the farmers do not genuine certified products/machinery at reasonable cost and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The workshop facilities available with the research centres and institutes of ICAR are basically research and development oriented. The institute/projects engaged in prototype development, do interact with manufacturing industries as a promotional avenue for the developed equipment.

(b) Large scale commercial manufacturing comparable to a well established manufacturing industries is neither feasible nor contemplated. The ICAR only make prototype at the research centres taking care of quality control and safety aspects. Relevant BIS standards are followed whenever available for the manufacturing and testing of prototypes.

(c) The ICAR has started a Revolving fund scheme. Under this scheme the institutions are given an interest free loan. Using this loan, the institute/project produces equipment for sale and pays back to the ICAR to the extent of the initial loans amount from the profit generated. Proper quality standards are maintained in the fabrication of the equipment.

कमला-बलान रेल-पुल की मरम्मत

794. श्री रामदेव भंडारी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत वर्ष के दौरान उत्तर-पूर्व रेलवे के झांझारपुर-लौहना स्टेशन के बीच कमला-बलान नदी पर स्थित रेल-पुल की मरम्मत का कार्य पूरा कर लिया गया था,

(ख) उस पर कुल कितनी राशि खर्च की गई और यह कार्य कब पूरा किया गया;

(ग) क्या पुल की हालत फिर से खराब हो गई है;

(घ) क्या पुल की मरम्मत के कार्य हेतु धनराशि में कोई घोटाला किया गया था; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार इस मामले में कोई जांच कराएगी?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) कार्य 93-94 में पूरा किया गया।

(ख) रु॰ 29,94,360/-रु. 31.3.1994

(ग) जी नहीं,

(घ) जी नहीं,

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता.

Endangered Rhino of Kaziranga

795. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to protect and preserve Kaziranga as the natural habitat of the Rhino in the context of the report in the "Pioneer" dated the 19th June, 1996; and

(b) the estimated population of Rhino at present and how it compares with that in 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The State Government of Assam have reported that they are facing a serious financial problem in maintaining the Kaziranga National Park, after the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Conservation of rhinos in Assam" was transferred to the state alongwith its resources in 1992-93. They have, therefore,

requested for revival of the scheme in the central sector which the Planning Commission has agreed to consider in the IX Plan. In the meantime, assistance has been provided to hte State under another Centrally sponsored scheme for development of Kaziranga National Park, but out of Rs. 88.58 lakhs released to them in 1993-94, Rs. 47.80 lakhs is yet to be spent which has been revalidated for utilization during 1996-97.

(b) The population of rhinos in the country as per 1995 assesment is 1566 as compared to the 1991 estimate of 1567.

रेलवे में संशोधनों की कमी

796. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रेलवे को संसाधनों की भारी कमी के कारण मजबूरन कुछ परियोजनाओं में कटौती करनी पड़ सकती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस कारण से प्रभावित होने वाली परियोजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या रेलवे इन परियोजनाओं के लिए स्वयं संसाधन जुटाने का विचार रखता है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) क्या संसाधनों की भारी कमी के कारण गुजरात में कुछ रेल परियोजनाएं प्रभावित हो रही है और राज्य में ऐसी कुछ परियोजनाओं का कार्य इसी कारण से बन्द कर दिया गया है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) से (ङ) निवेश योजना तथा रेल परियोजनाओं को शुरू करना एक सतत प्रक्रिया है जो यातायात आवश्यकताओं और निधि की उपलब्धता पर आधारित होती है। चल रही परियोजनाओं की केवल गति निधि की कमी से धीमी हो जाएगी।

Delay in ticket booking at Hyderabad and Secunderabad stations

797. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average time required to book a berth at Hyderabad is over 90 minutes during office hours;

(b) if so, whether computerisation has not made any impact on passenger convenience; and

(c) the specific reasons for delay at reservation offices in Hyderabad and Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hike in the Prices of Fertilizers

798. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the prices of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to control the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer under the statutory price control. There is no increase in its price since June, 1994.

(b) Phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were decontrolled on the recommendation of the joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing. Their prices have gone up primarily due to increase in the cost of imported raw materials like phosphoric Acid and Ammonia and depreciation of Rupee vis-a-vis dollar.

(c) The Government has increased the concession on these fertilizers to mitigate the impact of increase in their prices on the farmers as follows:

(Rs. per tonne)

	From	To
DAP (Indigenous)	: 1000	3000
DAP (Imported)	: —	1500
MOP	: 1000	1500
Complexes	: 435-999	1304-2633
SSP	: 340	500